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The Society welcomes reports of unusual Aerial Phenomena and evaluates each report on its own merits and if requested, reports will be held in the strictest confidence. The Society exchanges information with many similar Australian and overseas organisations, as well as scientists, and disseminates to the public, available information on the subject, which includes local, interstate and the latest overseas developments in its quarterly publication "Australian U.F.O. Bulletin," posted to all members. Address all communications to:

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Society History

1957

1957

At this point perhaps it may be opportune to present a brief history of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.

The earliest U.F.O. group to form in Australia was the "Australian Flying Saucer Bureau" under the direction of Edgar Jarrold and Andrew Tomas, in the early 1950s. At the same time, Fred Stone inaugurated the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" in Adelaide. After approximately two years the Bureau closed down and was regarded as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" under Andrew Tomas. This shortly broke from Adelaide and became the "Australian U.F.O. Investigation Centre" with Dr. Clifford at its head until 1958, when the Presidency passed to Dr. Lindtner.

The "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (Victorian Branch)" was formed on the 17th February, 1957 as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" and later that year was re-organised as the "Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" with Mr. Peter E. Norris L.L.B. as President. In 1968 the name was again altered — this time to the "Victorian U.F.O. Research Society".

During this time, the Society has published various papers and is probably best known for its publication Australian Flying Saucer Review, curtailed in 1972 due to high costs and subsequently superseded by the Australian U.F.O. Bulletin and at one stage sponsored and produced a quarter-hour program on a Melbourne radio station under the heading of "The Truth Behind Flying Saucers".

The Society had held a dispassionate attitude on U.F.O.s, claiming it is a scientific problem deserving closer attention. It has also met regularly in General Meetings and maintains the largest U.F.O. library in the Southern Hemisphere, making books available by post, to members throughout the Commonwealth.

Membership of this Society — which maintains the largest membership of any U.F.O. organisation in the Southern Hemisphere — is open to all who are genuinely interested in the subject.

Australia U.F.O. Bulletin

The Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, 3189, Vic. Australia - VBH 0122

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EDITORIAL

The appearance of Halley's Comet in recent months has been a matter of general public interest all over the world and particularly in countries like Australia where better sightings of the comet were predicted.

Although the night sky has doubtless received more attention by both trained and untrained observers, no significant increase in UFO sightings reports has resulted. In fact there has been a real drought of sightings in recent months.

Those in the business of debunking UFO sightings frequently give such explanations as the observer having seen one of the brighter planets or having a psychological predisposition to "See" a UFO. Here we have Millions of people searching the heavens eager to see something, many of them no doubt disappointed with the poor showing of the comet, and yet they fail to "See" a few UFO's.

If any of the debunkers really believed their own explanations, they should be crawling back into the woodwork never to emerge again. You may be sure however that next time a significant sighting is reported they will peddle their 'explanations' as though Halley's Comet had never come and gone.

If you should be so unfortunate as to be subjected to such debunking, just remember that what credibility they seemed to have in the past has gone with the comet.

Thank you HALLEY'S COMET!

MARTIN GOTTSCHALL
No 114 JUNE 1986
UFO ENCOUNTER, U.F.O. RESARCH QUEENSLAND
P.O. BOX 111, North Quay, Brisbane, QLD, 4000.

Our thanks to Martin, the editorial may be out of date but it was too good to pass up.

V.U.F.O.R.S.

ON THE UFO TRAIL

By Paul Norman

1986, was an excellent time to travel on the UFO trail. There were no problems when booking seats or accommodation. For the first time in years one could have three aircraft seats on which to stretch out and rest during an entire flight.

After a three day stopover in California, to take care of correspondence and messages awaiting me there, I flew non-stop from San Francisco to London, arriving in time for the monthly meeting of the British UFO Research Association. The following four days were taken up visiting and exchanging information with researchers in that area.

On 10th April, I boarded a train and crossed the channel to the Hook of Holland, where my Eurail Pass was validated for the beginning of a tour through several countries of Western Europe. There was no time for stopover between Holland and Oslo, Norway, from where VUFORS had received an invitation to send a representative for round-table discussions with researchers of UFO RESEARCH NORGE, to compare periods of UFO activity in Australia with activity occurring in and near the Hessdalen Valley of Central Norway.

My first night in Norway was with Hans Moe and Maria, where I first encountered the warm hospitality of that friendly country. The original plan was to proceed directly from Oslo to Hessdalen. But due to a snow storm the trip to the valley had to be postponed. This gave me an opportunity to visit with other members near Oslo.

The visit to Hessdalen was organised by Mr Odd-Gunnar Red, the co-ordinator of Project Hessdalen. The Project Hessdalen report was translated by Erling Strand. Leif Havik, spent three days showing slides, discussing the activity and driving me to interview a family who resided in the valley. Leif and Irene served as interpreters between Jon Ospes, his family and myself.

Hessdalen, is a valley which is approximately 12 kilometres long and 4 kilometres wide, located on Central Norway about 60 kilometers south east of Trondheim. During December, 1981, erratic manoeuvering lights suddenly appeared in and near the valley. Some of them would hover for more than an hour before darting about in the sky. They were tracked at high speed by both military and civil radar. Sometimes the lights were reported to be just above the roof of houses. Most of the time they were reported below the tops of the nearby mountains. A few sightings were reported in day time during the summer months.

During the spring of 1983, the lights were seen more often. Project Hessdalen originated with five persons. The Project's aim was to find out what this phenomenon in the valley was. At that time the small group thought it was the only spot in the world where reports were being made.

Soon personnel from Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (NDRE) began to co-operate with the project group.

One of the most spectacular experiments took place on 12th February, 1984, when Researcher Leif Havik, pointed a laser toward a flashing light. The object responded by doubling the frequency of its flashes. The experiment was tried nine times with a result of eight reactions. One week later, as Leif stepped

cont'd/.....

out of his caravan headquarters to meet Age Moe (a farmer in the valley) and Edvin Kvaernes, a red light moved around his feet. The duration was a few seconds. The men saw at once that it was the same type of laser light that Havik used earlier. But the laser used by Havik was back in Oslo. There was no sound. All the men could see was a small opening in the clouds where a few stars were visible. Was this a response from a UFO?

The researchers made a thorough effort to prove or disprove the hypothesis of Peter Devereux, who suggested in his book, "Earth lights", that there could either be a direct connection with movements in the ground or it could be in connection with the tension in the ground just before or after a movement in the earth. They installed a seismograph MEQ-800 portable seismic system in October, 1983. Detailed stereoscopic readings were also secured from Hessdalen and nearby areas by Dr M. Heim.

Inside a radius of 70 kilometers from Hessdalen there have been detected four quakes, all small in amplitude, during the past six years. Inside a radius of 50 kilometers, there have been fifteen recordings during the last one hundred years. Thus far, no connection between the lights and movements in the ground has been found.

Veteran members of VUFORS will recall that one of the most outstanding responses from a UFO in the Southern Hemisphere occurred during June, 1959. For the benefit of younger members, this famous incident has been told throughout the world-wide UFO research community. On 28th October, 1959, Rev. William Gill addressed a large audience attending a VUFORS general meeting in Melbourne. He told of spectacular sightings being reported over New Guinea, consummating with one of the longest time duration of any close encounter ever reported. Thirty-eight people witnessed this spectacle. The main object observed during this series of incidents was described as a craft with two decks. The top deck being about twenty-five feet in diameter and the lower deck about thirty-five feet in diameter. There were four "humanoids" seen at one time who appeared to be making some "repairs or adjustments" on the top deck. At one stage the UFO descended to about 500 feet above the ground and the observers thought it was going to land. Two of the observers began to wave, thinking the occupants were Americans in need of assistance. Two of the occupants aboard the craft responded likewise. The craft was last seen crossing the bay in one minute. At that point the bay is about thirty miles wide. Just one more case concerning response to humans on the UFO trail.

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ALIENSPEAK

By Edward Regis, Jr.

(credit: OMNI magazine, March 1986 issue - vol.8, no.6).

The alien scientist on planet Nyab, of the great Hazzad system in the Andromeda galaxy, rises from his laboratory bench and pushes a rack of test tubes into the sink in front of him. They shatter, liquids spilling, leaving a foul smell.

The white-coated lab assistant standing by his side admires his lumpy, misshapen features, illuminated from all angles by the three suns that arc across the heavens. She raises her hand to wipe away a tear that falls from his eye, and asks, "Sylgid, sorifer, tislín, hul?"

"Esfortula bronaw," he answers.

After a few sullen moments they return to their test tubes to begin the experiment once again. They're trying to make a new form of life, one they suspect may exist on other planets.

Such creatures aren't extraterrestrials; they're extras on a Hollywood stage. Aliens from other worlds will be far more complicated than these cardboard cutouts. And what's true of the aliens' bodies will also be true of their minds. As a result, their science may not resemble ours.

"Expecting extraterrestrials to be doing

natural science as we do on Earth is like expecting a newly discovered desert-island race to be speaking grammatical English," says Nicholas Rescher, a philosopher of science at the University of Pittsburgh. "It's just wishful thinking."

According to Rescher, organisms evolve in response to their environments. Because extraterrestrial habitats will be radically different from earthly ones, so will the creatures who evolve there. Even the way they perceive their world will be dissimilar from the way we perceive ours.

"If an alien's environment is not amply endowed with solid objects or stable structures," Rescher says, "if, for example, they are jellyfishlike creatures swimming about in a soupy sea, then their 'geometry' could be something rather strange. A society of molelike creatures might never dream of developing optics."

If Rescher is correct, the E.T.'s won't have a technology even remotely compatible with what we have on Earth. And even if they have radio transmitters, what's a message to them may be static to us. If we are to take seriously our differences from

extraterrestrials, we must apparently give up the age-old dream of discoursing with starmen—or at least seek alternative methods of communication.

The computer, it seems, may rescue us from cosmic loneliness. Researchers are looking to artificial intelligence to disclose the secrets of extraterrestrial minds. And early indications tell us that no matter what extraterrestrials look like, they will reason the same way we do. We should be able to communicate with them through the most basic of reasoning processes: arithmetic.

These claims come from the world's foremost computer expert, Marvin Minsky. Minsky believes that we can make better assumptions about extraterrestrials' brains than we can about their bodies. Intelligence is likely to be a universal quality, the same in all its manifestations. There are many physical shapes in the world but only one way to think. Minsky explains how he tunnels into the alien psyche: by using a theoretical device invented by the British computer pioneer Alan Turing.

"What Turing did," Minsky says, "was to make the idea of a computer—or a machine—very precise." He did this by defining what's perhaps the simplest possible computer, one that's now known as a Turing machine.

"A Turing machine is just a black box that has a small number of possible states," Minsky says, "and if you say what state it's in, you've given a complete description of its contents."

Because the Turing machine exists only in theory, it's not important to know precisely how a working model would operate. What's important is that the imaginary gadget is programmed to respond to every kind of stimulus it receives.

These stimuli are fed into the machine in the form of marks on a tape. "The tape is a long series of squares," Minsky explains. Let's say there can be either a zero or a one in a square. The machine can essentially do three things. It can scan these zeros and ones; it can change them or leave them alone; and it can move either right or left to the next square."

It's surprising that from these simple devices the most complex behavior patterns

cont'd / . . .

can arise. Minsky says that it's just these kinds of basic processes that are at the heart of all computation, be it human, machine, or extraterrestrial.

So far, each of these machines has had just one state, meaning one set of instructions for all possible inputs. But Turing machines rapidly become more complex as the number of inputs increases. We could, for example, add a slash (/) and an asterisk (*) to the list of tape symbols; or we could increase the number and complexity of the machine's instructions, thereby increasing its states. For example, a more complex instruction would be If there is a slash, leave an asterisk, move right, and apply instruction number five.

By amplifying these symbols and instructions in just the right way, it wouldn't be long before we had created a universal Turing machine, one whose behavior patterns were so complex that it could simulate the behavior of any other machine. Whereas the simple Turing machines don't exist except on paper, universal ones do—in the form of electronic digital computers. A suitably programmed, modern computer with enough memory can simulate the behavior of any other machine.

Minsky asked himself, *If a universal Turing machine can simulate anything, why can't it simulate an alien's intellect?* He decided that it can. Together with colleague Daniel Bobrow, who is a researcher in artificial intelligence at the Xerox Research Center in Palo Alto, California, Minsky reproduced the behaviors of all possible machines. That's another way of saying that they simulated all possible thought processes, including, of course, those of extraterrestrials.

"What we found," Minsky says, "is that the first few thousand such machines showed just a few distinct kinds of behaviors. Some of them just stopped. Many just erased their input data. Most got trapped in circles, repeating the same steps over and over."

But as Minsky and Bobrow continued their search, they found that a few of their machines did something new. Every one of the remaining few that did anything interesting at all did the same thing." Minsky says, "Each of them performed a sort of counting operation: They increased by one the length of a string of symbols and repeated that. They were little counting machines."

Minsky says that these little "counting machines" were performing arithmetic. "Any entity that searches through the simplest processes," he concludes, "will soon be doing something that doesn't just resemble arithmetic, it will be arithmetic."

This means that the language of mathematics—and the physical sciences that go with it—is not just provincial to Earthlings,

it's shared by all intelligent entities. Regardless of any other differences between ourselves and aliens, we will calculate the same way that they do.

So an intelligent alien, like an intelligent human, will use arithmetic. "They'll need arithmetic to keep accounts, to build big cultures," Minsky reasons. "Of course, there could be intelligent aliens that don't use mathematics, but they'd stay at some primitive level. They wouldn't have spaceships and wouldn't broadcast signals."

Mathematics may seem abstract and empty, but it's precisely this cold, impersonal simplicity that makes the timeless truths of arithmetic the best possible way to transmit interstellar messages.

The trick is to go from such humble but clearly intelligible beginnings to signals that encode much more. After all, we want to learn—and presumably the E.T.'s want to tell us—more than that $4 + 2 = 6$ up there, too. And mathematics will allow them to say anything they want to say.

"If the aliens can describe mathematics," Minsky says, "they can describe anything. They can send us a code for graph paper, and with pairs of numbers—Cartesian coordinates—the aliens could represent all kinds of shapes and forms. If they're sending triplets of numbers, they may be representing three-dimensional objects. All you'd need to communicate, then, are good mathematicians here and good ones there."

* END *

Our thanks to OMNI for
this article.

DECEMBER DISCUSSION NIGHT

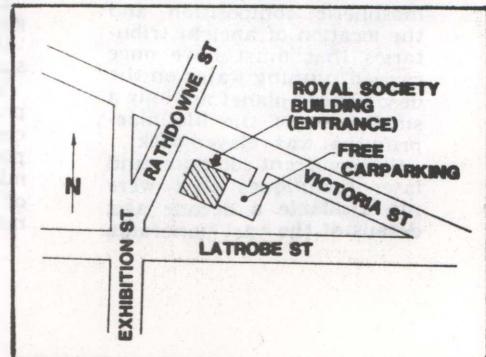
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Riddle of the face on Mars

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
AUGUST 10th 1986

NASA scientists have been haunted by photographs of Mars that show a human-like face staring into space.

NASA's Mariner and Viking space probes produced tens of thousands of photographs of Mars, showing it to be a barren, crater-strewn, wind-swept world.

The photographs led many scientists initially to declare it to be lifeless.

But two scientists found several photographs showing a definite face.

They devised a computer image-enhancement technique which showed that the face had distinctive human features and expression, including eye pupils and a pharaoh-type head-dress. This is hardly the product of natural erosion.

It is the Sphinx Face of Mars.

There was more. The NASA photographs revealed clusters of pyramids — some more than a kilometre high; some half-finished and hollow; some standing undamaged on the lips of craters.

Then there is the so-called Inca City in ruins and many other "features" standing near the shores of an ancient sea.

Are these artefacts warnings or messages for humankind?

Suddenly the possibility has become distinct that a civilisation did, after all, once exist on Mars — and that it was destroyed by some terrible holocaust.

Our own myths and legends predicted this. Now

space-age science provides controversial stirrings of firm evidence.

Is there some truth in the mythologies that have been handed down that Mars was once a planet of war?

Did life once thrive on Mars?

These are questions being asked, not by science fiction writers but by some of the most advanced scientific minds who have viewed the "artefacts" presented in pictures transmitted back by the NASA Mariner 9 and Viking orbital and surface exploration of Mars.

Scenes of rust-colored desert soil, information on atmospheric composition and the location of ancient tributaries that must have once carried running water on the desolate red planet are only a small part of the life blueprint that was relayed back.

Using current computer and laser techniques that were not available a decade ago, details of the vast panorama



of more than 50,000 Viking Orbiter pictures were enhanced to provide clearer pictures.

Thus we are now able to look closely at what may well prove to be the most startling sights ever seen.

Three years after the first Viking landers descended on Mars in 1976, two computer scientists began working on image-enhancing by computer of pictures of the Face of Cydonia and its attendant pyramids. The scientists, Vincent Di Pietro and Greg Molenaar, had been contracted to NASA at Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Di Pietro and Molenaar regard their involvement with the Mars investigation as something of an adventure.

Yet their contribution has provided some of the most conclusive evidence to support the theory that the pyramids, face and other features of the dead planet's landscape may well be the relics of a

long lost civilisation that was destroyed by some dreadful holocaust or through some freak of nature.

As Di Pietro describes it, he first came across the Face of Cydonia during 1977. His source reference was a rather poorly presented magazine article. He dismissed the article as a possible hoax.

Two years later, Di Pietro was thumbing through the archives of the National Space Science Data Centre when he once again came across the picture that included the Face of Cydonia: "There before me in black and white was the same serene image of a human-like face against the background of the Martian land surface".

The official NASA file photograph confirmed the authenticity of his find but Di Pietro's quest for further information was fruitless until he showed the pictures to Greg Molenaar, his computer scientist colleague at Goddard Space Flight Centre.

cont'd...

After running the tape through a high quality film recorder at Goddard, Molenhaar suggested a method of improving the image quality.

As nobody else appeared to be interested in working on the project the two men decided that it was up to them to blend their respective skills in an effort to study more closely the enigmatic image.

They obtained permission to utilise NASA equipment during off-shift hours, usually after midnight.

As DiPietro puts it: "A fantastic adventure was just beginning".

An enhanced look at the Mariner frames highlighted a set of tetrahedron structures in the Elysium Quadrangle region, which were unique and could not be written off as natural.

One of the most awe-inspiring facts about these "artefacts" was their enormous size - calculated to be 10 times the height and a thousand times the volume of the Great Pyramid of Giza.

Image-enhancement revealed these massive Martian structures reached about 2km high.

Another remarkable area of "time anomaly" is the so-called Inca City near Mars' South Pole.

Here, a series of cubical and rectangular "cells", ranging from five to eight kilometres long, form a pattern which has its closest comparison with early Inca mountain city remains found in Peru or Bolivia. Geologists are still baffled by this unusual box-like patterning.

Most of all, though, placed in the Cydonia area, there was the so-called "face".

Full appreciation of the vast anthropomorphic form that stares mutely into the sky in the region of Cydonia calls for the acceptance of advanced engineering to create enlarged, but exact, proportions of a human face in stone.

The super-massive structure of the sphinx face runs about 2.4km in length, reaches up into the sky for what may be 800m and is more than 1.6km wide. It has a brow and two perfect eyes, and an inner iris or lens, bisymmetrically fixed.

There is a midline in the centre of the face that distinguishes two soft points and a nose bridge similar to that of the human nose. This extends downwards to a perfectly formed and complete mouth area which is aligned with massive pyramid forms to the southwest of the face.

There appears to be a hairline extending down to just below the chin. This feature is also eerily reminiscent of an Egyptian-style headdress.

Near the structure there are a number of other mounds of about the same height, leading to the conclusion that, if the face is artificial and made by a group of intelligent people, then it was probably carved or sculptured.

Many who have viewed the face have been taken aback at first by the stare. The Cydonia head seems to reach out and say that Mars at one time was not a harsh place to live.

Set above the waterline and demonstrating a "water-gauge" mechanism of a hydraulic society (as with Giza, resting on the edge of the Nile River), there is what appears to be an avenue or series of lines that seem to send out a signal like those found at Nazca in Peru.



One of the most striking qualities about the physiognomy of the Martian monument is the absolute power of its expression. In contrast to the accepted female image of the Earth sphinx, it has the countenance of a strong male-image of a ruler at mature age.

Is this form the result of a random event?

In the Bible in Genesis, Chapter 6, we are told of intelligences that are called the "sons of God" and the "Nephilim". The Nephilim seem to possess supernatural powers interconnected with the evolution of man on Earth.

The biblical chapter alludes to the concept that both the Nephilim and the sons of God had the ability to move beyond our planetary dimension and navigate in time and space.

No one knows for sure all the nuances of the name "Nephilim", but it is clear that they ex-

emplified power which could influence the human condition.

Perhaps the Nephilim recorded here were messengers, time-travellers, from another planetary realm undergoing some change that necessitated an expanding civilisation or coexisting with races of a neighboring system.

The extinction in mythology of the Nephilim generations upon the Earth is consistent with the story (and geological sedimentation evidence) of the Great Flood.

This event is paralleled by the hypothetical Nephilim of the Cydonia region, which is placed upon a vast flood plain.

These gargantuan constructions on Mars may reflect an alteration of a program, the destruction of a civilisation and a judgment of a people on Mars, such as related to the Nephilim on Earth.

If there had been a devastating interplanetary war, and the face was left behind as a cipher or a model of a previous civilisation, technical development at one point could key us into other geometric points, other faces, in the north or south hemispheres.

The Cydonia face and pyramid assembly is an ideal planetary warning beacon.

Set above the waterline and demonstrating a "water-gauge" mechanism of a hydraulic society (as with Giza, resting on the edge of the Nile River), there is what appears to be an avenue or series of lines that seem to send out a signal like those found at Nazca in Peru.

These prompt an image of a landing area for vehicles travelling at interplanetary speed which, within a few seconds of recognition of the face, would make manoeuvres necessary to touch down.

The Martian feature known as The Runway has lumps along it every few hundred metres, as if artificially programmed into the slow design. It certainly looks like an aircraft runway.

Imaginative speculation could see it as some sort of giant accelerator, with a series of power stations and a rail so that a large amount of power can be pro-

duced every few hundred metres, perhaps aimed at boosting some sort of space vehicle into orbit.

The Runway is an exceedingly long and linear feature. It does not look like a fault, or an uplifted ridge.

If Mars once had a hospitable environment similar to Earth, what happened to change that?

Reading from our past heritage, Mars, down the centuries, stands out as a planet of war. In Greek mythology, Ares, the Greek god of war and son of the mighty Zeus, derived pleasure from armed conflict, and bloodshed on the battlefield with his twin sons and the war goddess Enyo, to rouse the martial spirit of the warriors.

The Romans later adapted some of the characteristics of Ares for their own god of war, Mars.

The Mahabharata, the ancient Sanskrit text, gives a broad and wild description of the birth and installation of Skanda "by the assembled gods . . . as their war commander" which had shattering results throughout the heavens. Skanda is considered to be the planet Mars.

The Babylonians knew the planet Mars as Nergal, the god of death and pestilence and various books of the Holy Scriptures (Judges, Daniel, Revelations, etc) speak of war in the heavens.

All support the myth that there may have once been civilisations on one or more of our neighboring planets - cultures that were destroyed thousands of years ago in some violent upheaval.

To search for proof, it would be necessary to look for radioactive soil samples which could indicate if a Martian war did take place.

Perhaps in 1991 NASA Observer will resolve the theory that there is evidence of a nuclear winter on Mars . . . that the architects of a different world may have once destroyed themselves through nuclear or laser-type warfare, or were destroyed by some unknown interplanetary or extrastellar foe.

• *The Face On Mars*, by Brian Crowley and James Hurtack, Sun Books, \$9.95.

END

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol. 10 No. 1

1964

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

UFOs and the FOURTH DIMENSION

by Luis Shoenherr

IN my article "UFOs and Fourth Dimension" in the March-April, 1963, issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW I outlined four hypotheses concerning the nature of the UFO phenomenon:

1. UFOs are some sort of machine emanating from a region of the cosmos unobservable in our space-time continuum. They use a fourth dimension to travel into regions of the cosmos observable to us.
2. UFOs originate in our space-time continuum but voyage outside it (using the fourth dimension).
3. UFOs are "four dimensional structures" and that part of the UFO observable to us is the three dimensional projection of the structure in that part of the cosmos observable to us.
4. UFOs may be time machines (this assumes that the fourth dimension is time).

At present it seems me that it is impossible to decide which of these hypotheses is correct and, in addition, hypotheses 1, 2 and 3 are not mutually exclusive.

In this article, I should like to consider the concept of a fourth dimension with regard to certain rather enigmatic observational features. At the present stage of our inquiry it will not matter in principle whether the fourth dimension is a special dimension completely imperceptible to us, or whether the seriality which we call "time" is merely the form in which we perceive the fourth dimension. However it appears that the following arguments may especially fit the hypotheses 1, 2 and 3.

The observational facts we are here concerned with are the following:

- a. What appear to be diffuse luminous objects, similar to the phenomenon of ball-lightning, behave as if they were under intelligent control. Classical observations of this type are the so called "foo-fighters."
- b. In some cases, objects of this type have been shot at without any effect. They seemed to be invulnerable.
- c. Benedicks has tried to apply the ball lighting theory to the UFO phenomenon. In order to explain the fact that UFOs often change course and fly away when fighter planes appear on the scene, he put forward the interesting hypothesis outlined below. If an aircraft is approaching a ball lightning the induced air movement from the propeller will cool off parts of the ball of electrically charged gas. This will in turn cause a static discharge the reaction from which repels the ball away from the aircraft thus creating the impression that the object is "fleeing" from it. Now as everyone can demonstrate for himself at an airport, the air movement does not extend very far ahead of even a stationary

aircraft. If the craft is in rapid motion, one might expect its range to be considerably smaller. This means, that a pursuing aircraft would have to come dangerously close to a ball lightning, before the induced air movement could have any effect at all. I therefore suggest that this hypothesis gives too much credit to the effect of the induced air movement since there are very few reports which would lead one to think that such a close approach has occurred. In addition, we must not forget the UFOs have often changed their course to approach aircraft and to accompany them for minutes after slowing down near the plane.

In some cases UFOs of the luminous type have been shot at without any effect. It is impossible to explain this by the ball lightning hypothesis. A lightning ball is a very unstable structure and therefore often destroyed by the slightest disturbance. I can hardly imagine ball lightning being shot at (and hit) and not become unstable and therefore dispersing or exploding. This feature of the UFO reports would be better explained by the mirage hypothesis of Dr. Menzel (2). But according to Menzel the often reported intelligently controlled movements would have to be regarded as almost purely coincidental, an assumption which seems equally far fetched. There are yet other reasons why the mirage hypothesis is not very probable (3). The following two reports clearly indicate that both of the hypotheses mentioned above completely fail to explain the facts.

On March 25, 1942 an R.A.F. bomber after having bombed the city of Essen in the Ruhr, was followed for five minutes by an orange glowing object over the Zuider Zee. The rear gunner fired several rounds at it without any effect (4).

Another, even more astonishing report comes from the other of the then belligerent parties. In autumn 1944, some months before the allies on the western frontiers were puzzled by the appearance of the foo-fighters, a German anti-aircraft battery near Warszwa fired at an UFO. The glow stopped abruptly over the battery whereupon its circular object appeared in the night and light dimmed. The rangefinder indicated its altitude at 10,800 metres. Despite heavy firing from all guns it descended vertically to 3,200 metres. Then, it suddenly became blindingly bright. Flames appeared around its circumference and on its underside while it shot upward and withdrew from the battery. Its exact speed could not be obtained because of the extremely high acceleration, but it was in the region of 1,300 kilometres per hour (5). Now let us see how far the theory of a fourth dimension can help us to understand

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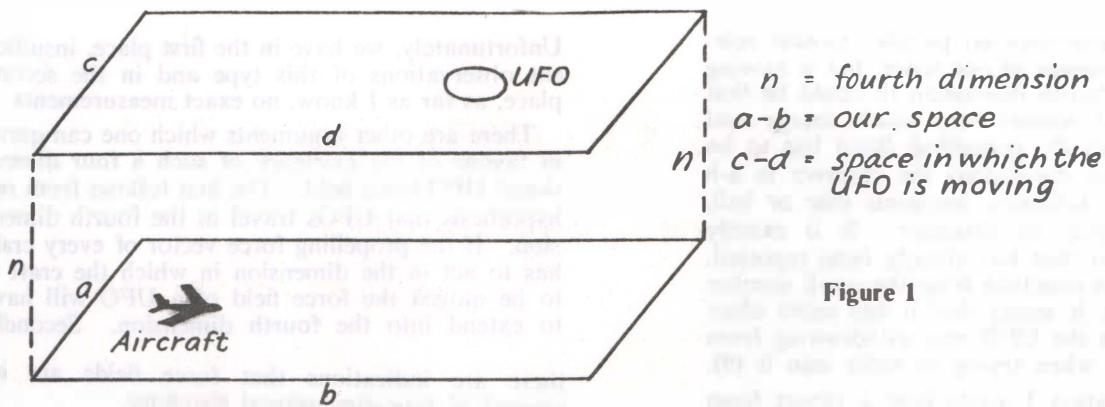


Figure 1

these facts. As we are apparently three dimensional beings and unaccustomed to the conception of a fourth dimension, I shall use a simple analogy to explain my hypothesis. In fig. 1 our space is represented by the plane b and the hypothetical space in which the UFO is moving by the plane c-d. We have for the purpose of our consideration the two three dimensional continuum reduced to planes. The remaining dimension n will be taken as the fourth dimension. If we agree, that all physical events which take place in c-d are strictly confined to this space, the UFO is visible to the pilot of the aircraft in a-b, only if n becomes zero.

This is but one possibility. Now suppose that the force field created by the propulsion system of the UFO is not merely confined to space c-d, but has also a component C extending into the fourth dimension n. We could conceive of this component as of a four dimensional structure as already in hypothesis 3. (see fig. 2). As we know from countless observations, the luminescence in

The concept of a force field projection could also explain why in some cases such phenomena have not been affected by external influences. It would have practically no effect if the gunner of the aircraft in a-b fired at the disturbance B, because the conditions which produce the luminescence are maintained by the force field, as long as the UFO stays in the vicinity of our space. Only if the UFO withdraws, thereby increasing n will the projection disappear and this disappearance could be as sudden as its appearance on arrival in our space during the approach (4), (7). In the same way we could understand the incredible report from Russia according to which a fireball suddenly expanded, allowing the pursuing fighter to fly right through it. It could have been a UFO, shifting back into the fourth dimension, as the situation became dangerous, leaving in our space only the luminous disturbance caused by its force field (16). It must be remembered, that n in fig. 2 is imperceptible to us. Our perception is confined to space a-b. One must there-

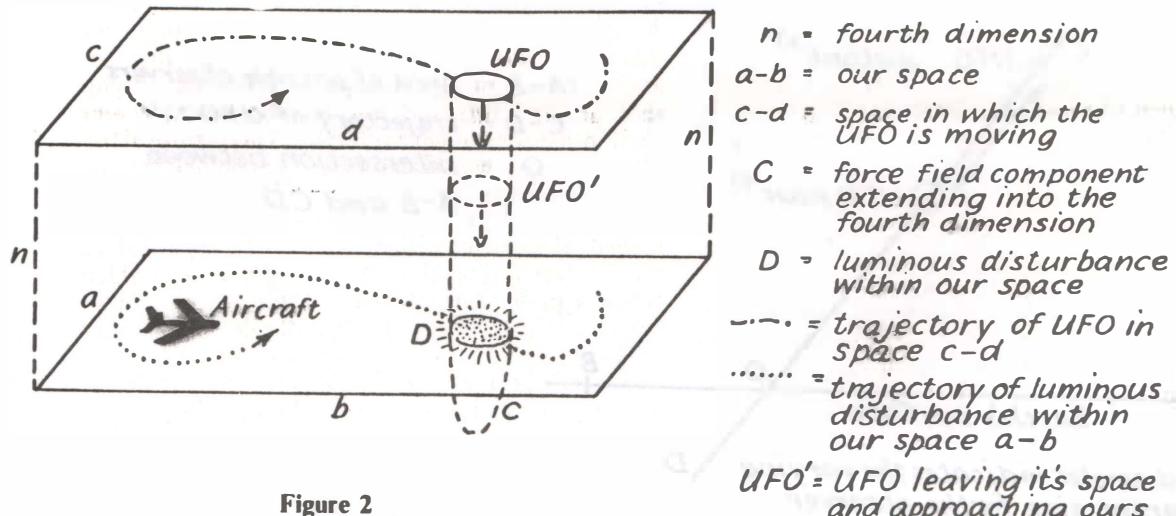


Figure 2

the atmosphere surrounding the UFO alters in colour and brightness with velocity. This indicates that this effect is caused by the propulsive force and this force in turn is very likely a field force (6). It is therefore possible also to attribute the capacity to cause luminescence also to the force field component C (see fig. 2). But this means that the UFO itself does not necessarily need to enter our space a-b in order to produce a visible effect therein. It would be sufficient for n to become small enough for the force field component C to penetrate our space a-b. This would cause a luminescence to appear in our space without the UFO itself being present. If now the UFO exercises intelligently controlled manoeuvres in its space c-d the luminous projection caused by it will perform the transformation of these movements in a-b. The shape of the projection will depend on the four dimensional shape of component C, while its colour and brightness may depend on the intensity of the force field as well as on our atmospheric conditions (air pressure, humidity etc.). As we know these shapes from experience (spheres and discoids are most commonly reported) we should be in the position to draw certain conclusions as to the fourth dimensional geometry of the force field by analytical methods.

fore not conceive of the luminous effect or the UFO as approaching from "above" or "below." It will really appear from and disappear into nothing amidst our space, exactly in the same manner as described by several observers. It is perhaps worth mentioning that this phenomenon could in principle even occur within a completely closed three-dimensional space, e.g. a room, because it is as much "open" with regard to the fourth dimension, as a plane is open with regard to the third dimension (8). As the intensity of the force field component C will gradually increase as space c-d is approached, the luminescence within our space will grow in intensity and diameter as n becomes smaller. But, if the UFO itself is entering our space, its operator will have to reduce the force field intensity, if he wants to stay therein. Thus the luminescence will reach its maximum just before the UFO materialises itself in our space. The observer of such a materialisation would therefore perceive at first a luminous mass appearing in our space. It would grow in diameter and intensity. Then he would perceive a sudden dimming of the light and, as the luminescence decreased in intensity, the well defined outline of the UFO's hull would appear behind it.

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If the UFO exercises no parallel motion relative to the dimensions of our space, but is moving only along the fourth dimension (it could be that such movements require very much energy and that therefore all the propelling force has to be directed into this dimension) the observer in a-b will perceive a stationary luminous disc or ball, gradually changing its diameter. It is exactly this phenomenon that has already been reported. As far as we can conclude from the small number of such reports, it seems that it has more often been seen when the UFO was withdrawing from our space than when trying to enter into it (9).

As an illustration I quote here a report from Ehrwald, Tyrol. On March 26, 1950, at 9.45 a.m. an observer on the Zugspitze saw a disc-like object approaching in an undulating flight from the east. Suddenly the object stopped and reduced its size by 50%. After this it accelerated very fast and disappeared to west-north-west. The phenomenon was observed by four persons (10). The same occurrence at the same place was seen on March 27, 1950, at 9.45 a.m. on March 28, at 10.05 a.m. and on March 30, at 9.45 a.m. again. On this occasion, it should also be mentioned that the report, which was from an German AA-battery, also stated that the object had not appeared for the first time when it was fired at. It has been reported by the five spotters and two days before the incident, always at exactly the same time of day! One thinks involuntarily of the 24-hour cycles detected by Michel and the, perhaps not so speculative, suggestions regarding the repeated appearance of UFOs along the orthotenic alignments made by Charles Bowen (12). Have the observers near Warazwa as well as on the Zugspitze witnessed the luminous effect

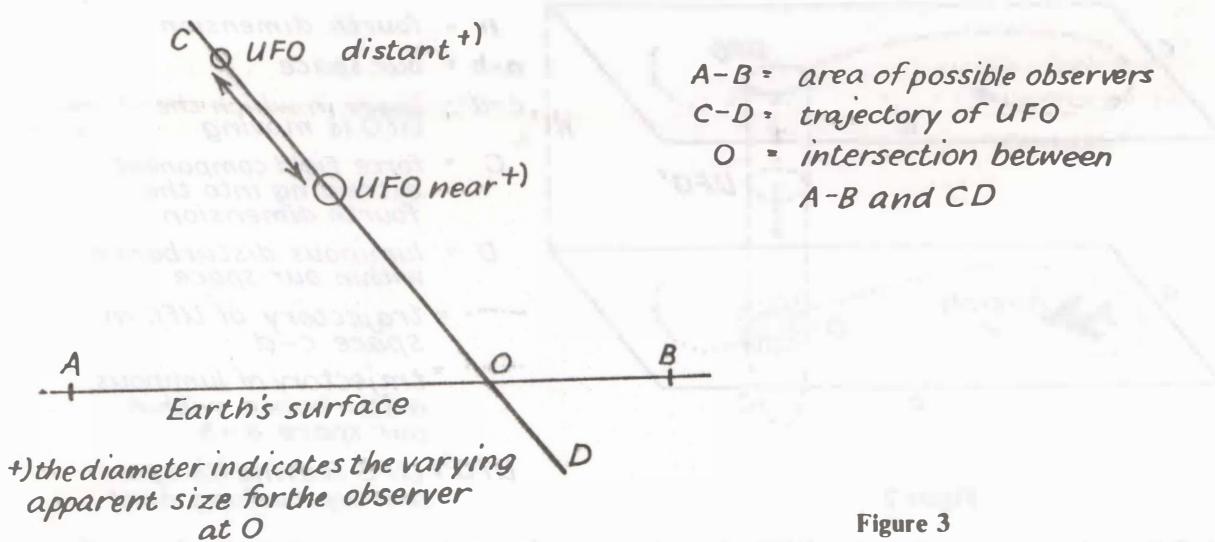
Unfortunately, we have in the first place, insufficient observations of this type and in the second place, as far as I know, no exact measurements.

There are other arguments which one can quote in favour of the existence of such a four dimensional UFO force field. The first follows from my hypothesis that UFOs travel in the fourth dimension. If the propelling force vector of every craft has to act in the dimension in which the craft is to be moved the force field of a UFO will have to extend into the fourth dimension. Secondly

there are indications that force fields are in general of four-dimensional structure.

This concept is not entirely speculative and there is perhaps a possibility of proving of a fourth dimension as well as the existence of four-dimensional fields. There are various reports of radar observations during which the scanner has picked up targets which could not be seen although they should have been within the range of visual observation. Experienced radar operators have definitely ruled out the possibility that there may have been weather targets or ground clutter reflections. Have these mysterious echoes been coming from objects in another space via the fourth dimension? If radar pulses are not confined to our three dimensional space we must conclude that a certain amount of the energy emitted by the scanner escapes into the fourth dimension, and is lost.

It may be possible to design an experimental device accurate enough to measure this energy deficit. The experimental arrangement would have to consist of a radar sender and a receiver.



caused by the UFOs four dimensional force field during its withdrawal from our space, or during repeated (and perhaps unsuccessful) attempts to enter it?

An alternative and very simple explanation to account for the change in size is that it is only a variation in apparent size. If an object moves along a straight line which intersects with the position of the observer, he would have exactly the same impression as mentioned above, due to the change in distance between himself and the object. But I think that we should not accept this explanation too readily. We know that the vast majority of all UFO observations are purely accidental. If now at the time a UFO is operating coincidentally along a straight course one person in the area of possible observers between a-b (see fig. 3) is looking to the sky (and coincidentally in the proper direction) it would seem that only rarely would that person be situated at the intersection between AB and CD. However, scientific inquiry into this problem could be based only on statistics or on theodolite triangulations and simultaneous measurements of the apparent size.

Figure 3

Precautions would have to be taken that — as far as our three dimensions are concerned — all the energy emitted by the sender could be absorbed by the antenna of the receiver. Perhaps one could take advantage of a similar arrangement to that for the measurement of luminous flux. Here the light source is placed within a reflecting sphere, and the light energy is allowed to leave it only through a small opening, where the measurements are taken. If, then, a difference between the calculated antenna output of the sender and the antenna input of the receiver occurred, which could not be accounted for by causes already known (losses in the circuits and through reflection, transformation into heat, etc.) this would be a serious challenge for exact science.

Provided that the conditions under which the experiment is conducted are properly controlled, we would, in such a case, have either to drop the law of conservation of energy, or accept the existence of a fourth dimension. I regard the first as unacceptable, so the energy law would have to be extended a further dimension, as it has already been extended in the case of mass.

cont'd/...

I have yet to mention the possibility of a connection between my hypothesis and orthoteny. It was suggested in Mr. Bowen's recent article (12) in which he wrote "materialization can only take place along fixed lines, or routes, where their (the UFOs) four dimensional space impinges on our three dimensional world." If it is true, that the geometrical pattern of orthoteny implies a four dimensional interpretation, then I think, that the fact of orthoteny points in principle to the following alternatives :

a) That although the space from which the UFOs originate and our own are both three dimensional, they do not intersect but are curved and are together embedded within a higher four dimensional continuum (whose fourth dimension possibly is what we call "time"), e.g. as the surfaces of two spheres situated in a three dimensional space. The UFOs and their crews are, as we are, three dimensional, but unlike us they have somehow managed to leave their three dimensional environment to travel along the fourth dimension to our space and back. The orthotenic alignments indicate those areas (or chronological sequence of areas) from which the distance to the space occupied by UFOs is a minimum. I also suspect that here we may have the terminations of those UFO-trajectories, which require the smallest amount of energy.

As the extensive research done by Michel has revealed, the great circles along which UFOs appear generally remain stationary for 24 hours. Then, to complicate things further, a changeover takes place. This would indicate a (periodic?) change (13) in the relative position of the two spaces, which would consequently result in a movement of those areas where we could expect UFOs to arrive (or depart) within our space.

b) The alignments of orthoteny are the result of an intersection between two different continua as suggested by Mr. Bowen.

Both of these possibilities present difficult questions as to the relationships between the continua

involved. At the moment, only one thing seems to be certain. Any spatial area (be it the result of an intersection or not) which would permit a UFO to materialise within it, would have to be not less than three dimensional, because a structure of an inferior dimensional order could never manifest any physical reality such as does matter. The orthotenic great circles may therefore be either narrow three dimensional channels, or single, isolated materialisation areas (14), arranged along great circles, either simultaneously or in a time sequence as suggested in (a).

The true form of this arrangement in time and space would depend entirely on the dimensional order, shape, relative angle and motion of the two continua. Although I am no mathematician, I think it should in principle be possible by a proper geometrical analysis of the orthotenic alignments to draw some conclusions as to the structure of the space behind it. Any progress in this direction could be important since if such natural materialisation areas exist (15) they are possibly not one way traffic roads. Indeed, if we can solve the technical problems of travel between different continua, they may some day permit an earthly craft to leave our space in search for the world from which the UFOs are coming.

END

- (1) C. Benedict "Theory of Ball Lighting and its Application to the Atmospheric Phenomenon Called 'Flying Saucers'" Arkiv för Geofysik, Vol. 2, Nr. 1, Stockholm 1952.
- (2) Donald Menzel. *Flying Saucers*
- (3) Aimé Michel *The Truth about Flying Saucers* Part 3 of this book contains a consideration of the mirage-theory of Dr. Menzel.
- (4) Gordon W. Creighton "Foo-Fighters" *Flying Saucer Review*, March-April, 1962.
- (5) An eye witness report of this incident was published on April 5, 1950, by the reliable Austrian provincial newspaper *Tiroler Tageszeitung*, Innsbruck. As I was then a hardened sceptic I failed to trace the witness in time. Later, when I became interested in the subject I was told by the editor that the report had been destroyed soon after publication.
- (6) Leonard G. Cramp "A Challenge to the Technical Press" *Flying Saucer Review*, January-February, 1963. See also Plantier
- (7) Aimé Michel "La Propulsion des Soucoupes Volantes" A chapter on Plantier's theory can be found in the book quoted under (3)
- (8) H. T. Wilkins *Flying Saucers on the Moon*, Chapter 2. (The American edition carries the title, *Flying Saucers on the Attack*.
- (9) For a demonstration of this one might refer to de Vrie's *Die Vierte Dimension* 1926
- (10) See my article "UFOs and fourth Dimension" *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, March-April, 1963, page 12.
- (11) For similar events, see the Fort Hood sighting reported in *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, November-December, 1961, and a report quoted by Wilkins in *Flying Saucers on the Moon*, page 71.
- (12) H. T. Wilkins *Flying Saucers on the Moon* Reports on radar discontinuities, page 80.
- (13) Charles Bowen "Time, Saucers and the Fourth Dimension" *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, May-June 1963.
- (14) Is there a connection with the findings of Aimé Michel by rotation of two orthotenic networks around a common centre ? Michel: *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, page 149.
- (15) In his book on orthoteny Aimé Michel points out that the alignments do not correspond to a real trajectory, in that the same alignment belongs to different objects and he asks: "What do the objects do between two observation points ?" This clearly favours the second possibility.
- (16) It seems that Charles Fort already supposed the existence of materialisation areas which he called "appearing points", but curiously enough, he did not give much credit to the theory of a fourth dimension.
- (17) Charles Fort: *The Books of Charles Fort*.
- (18) Gordon W. Creighton "Amazing News from Russia" *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, November-December, 1962.

The pilot of a Sydney-bound TAA DC-9 told them the burning object had "overtaken" his plane, showering sparks and "lighting the sky".

Pilots of another two aircraft reported a similar sighting.

Stanwell property owner David Benedict watched the hurtling object as it carved a huge arc in the sky about 9pm.

"It was absolutely spectacular," said Mr Benedict, who described himself as an amateur stargazer.

He said he'd conducted safaris in East Africa in the past and seen plenty of strange flying objects. "But this was by far the most incredible sight. It lasted about 60 seconds," he said.

"It was different to a shooting star. This was gaining altitude as it sped across the sky."

A Townsville resident, Max Byard, described it as a massive fiery ball which lit up the sky for nearly two minutes.

Air traffic controllers said the fireball was probably "space junk".

Last night's sighting follows other spectacular UFOs seen across Australia this year.

Two months ago an object fell to earth in South Australia's Encounter Bay. It was seen over a wide area in the south-east.

The RAAF believed it was a meteorite.

— BRAD FORREST

END

Queensland dazzled by 'space show'

17 Jul 86
HERALD VIC

A spectacular "space show" in the skies over north Queensland this week prompted many calls to air traffic controllers and police in Townsville and nearby areas.

'They were occasionally bending over and raising their arms as though adjusting or "setting up" something not visible. One figure seemed to be standing, looking down at us. . . I stretched my arm above my head and waved. To our surprise the figure did the same.'

Soon, recalled Gill, he and a New Guinean assistant were 'waving our arms and all four seemed to wave back. There seemed to be no doubt that our movements were answered. All the mission boys made audible gasps (of either joy or surprise, perhaps both).' As darkness fell over the compound, Gill signalled to the craft with a flashlight. 'After a minute or two of this, the UFO apparently acknowledged the signal by making wavering motions back and forth (in a sideways-direction, like a pendulum).'

After this remarkable exchange, although Gill and the others shouted and beckoned, 'the figures apparently lost interest in us, for they disappeared below

deck'. Gill himself went in to dinner, an act that has struck investigators—believers and non-believers alike—as extremely curious. After all, how could he leave the scene at a time like that? Gill explained later that he thought that the craft could be explained in conventional terms. He believed it was a type of hovercraft, perhaps 'some new device of the Americans'. 'It was only in retrospect' he said, 'that the whole thing seemed really extraordinary.'

A detailed critical analysis of the New Guinea episode was prepared by Dr Donald Menzel, the late Harvard astronomer and self-styled 'archenemy of UFOs'. Menzel hypothesized that what Father Gill actually saw was the planet Venus. According to Menzel, Gill probably mistook it for a UFO because he was myopic and not wearing his glasses. As for all those witnesses, said Menzel, the gullible natives were simply going along with the priest, 'their great white leader'.

Gill replied that he did see Venus—and mentioned it in his original report—and that he was most certainly wearing his glasses. As for the natives, said Gill, it was a period of anti-European unrest in New Guinea, and they were not likely to see things in the sky just because the white priest said they were there.

For the most part, sceptics are forced to explain close encounters of the third kind as lies or mental delusions. Many UFO reports have turned out to be hoaxes: college students staging an elaborate prank or someone flipping a frisbee-like object into the air and photographing it as 'proof' of a UFO. None of the major encounters considered significant by Hynek and other serious investigators have proved to be a lie or a prank. In most major encounters, the motivation for prevarication or fabrication seems lacking. Though a few self-styled participants in close encounters have translated them into best-selling books or other personal gains, the great majority, far from seeking public exposure, have assiduously shunned publicity.

Mental instability as an explanation is even more difficult to establish. A lie-detector test can often reveal hoaxes, but it cannot tell for certain whether the witness actually experienced the events in question—only that he truly believes he did. Certainly, hallucinations or delusions might account for single-witness encounters. But hallucinations seem totally implausible as an explanation in cases of multiple-witness sightings such as the New Guinea episode.

If all UFOs cannot be explained in conventional terms—if they are not always the result of misperception, natural phenomena, misidentification, fabrication or mental aberration—what might they be? Among those who believe in UFOs—and a Gallup poll taken in 1978 found that 57 per cent of American citizens who had heard of them did—the most popular explanation is that they are controlled by some form of extraterrestrial intelligence. This speculation is bolstered, in part at least, by the widely held view among scientists that intelligent life might exist beyond Earth, though most scientists reject the possibility that UFOs are real. In recent years, for example, radio astronomy has proved that the raw materials for life exist elsewhere. More than 100 different complex molecules from which life might be formed have been detected.

High chance of other intelligence

Statistically, the probability of the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence is so huge as to boggle the mind. For the universe contains billions of stars: the estimated figure is a one followed by at least 20 zeros. Many of these stars resemble our sun and presumably have planetary systems that could give rise to some form of life, intelligence and civilization. Speculative estimates

of the number of planets with such civilizations range from 50 000 to a thousand million or more.

One of the most prominent of American exobiologists—scientists who study the possibility of extraterrestrial life—is Cornell University astronomer Carl Sagan. Sagan has estimated that our Milky Way galaxy alone may have some 250 000 million stars. About a million of these, he believes, may have planets capable of supporting some form of technical civilization.

So certain are exobiologists of the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence that coded radio messages have been beamed into the vastness of our Milky Way. Moreover, the American space probe *Pioneer 10*, aiming for a rendezvous 2 million years hence with the star Aklebaran, carries an aluminium plaque bearing a coded message from Earth, including drawings of a stylized man and woman. In addition, for more than two decades, giant radio-astronomy telescopes around the globe have been sporadically listening for transmissions from other worlds.

In 1978 the search for messages from outer space took a fascinating turn: biologists began looking for special meanings in the coded genetic messages contained within certain viruses. The core of this highly speculative and provocative notion—that advanced civilizations may have originally 'seeded' life on Earth by launching microorganisms into space—was suggested in 1973 by the British scientist and Nobel Prize laureate Francis Crick. In 1979, Japanese researchers announced that the genetic sequence in one particular virus, found in intestinal bacteria, seemed, in their opinion, suspiciously contrived. Part of the sequence, they felt, might constitute a message created billions of years ago in another world by another intelligence.

Many UFO researchers view the elaborate search for signals from extraterrestrial intelligence with a certain irony. They ask, in effect, what if such messages are being transmitted by UFOs already at hand?

Assume, however wild the speculation may be, that UFOs are indeed interplanetary vehicles. The civilization that sends them presumably has found a way to overcome the immense technical barriers posed by traversing the universe. The greatest of these barriers is distance. For it takes years for light, moving at an astounding 299 000 kilometres per second, to travel from the nearest stars in our Milky Way. If earthlings could somehow find the means to fly at such speeds, a trip from one end of the Milky Way to the other would require 60 000 years. According to Einstein's special theory of relativity, however, time would pass more slowly for those on board the spacecraft. Watches and heartbeats would slow, and thus such travellers might make the trip in less than a lifetime.

Such speculation, of course, presumes travelling near the speed of light, a capability vastly beyond our present systems of propulsion and virtually beyond human comprehension. Yet it has been suggested that the universe itself may provide an answer to the problem of interplanetary propulsion, perhaps by supplying some seemingly impossible method of transcending known and accepted boundaries of space and time.

Carl Sagan, who is highly sceptical of the existence of UFOs, discusses this in his book *The Cosmic Connection*. Sagan, along with other astronomers, conjectures that the highly speculative concept that postulates the existence of black holes could provide the answer. These strange 'holes' in the universe might serve as a kind of intergalactic 'rapid-transit system'. Black holes, it is now thought, result from the death of stars that are more massive than our own sun. When such a star collapses, the theory suggests, it contracts into an area less than two kilometres across—a black hole with such

an extraordinary gravitational pull that it may even trap particles of light and so exist in perfect darkness. Thus it cannot be seen, but its gravitational pull can be felt.

Though the physics of black holes is poorly understood, Sagan uses them to conjure up vivid images of a fling through space: 'An object that plunges down a rotating black hole may re-emerge elsewhere and elsewhere—in another place and another time. Black holes may be apertures to distant galaxies and to remote epochs. They may be shortcuts through space and time.' Wondering how the holes might be used, Sagan goes on to imagine, 'although it is the sheerest speculation, a federation of societies in the Galaxy that have established a black hole rapid-transit system. A vehicle is rapidly routed through an interlaced network of black holes to the black hole nearest its destination.'

Thus, at least in the realm of conjecture, travellers from another world might reach the earth in UFOs by careening along this 'black hole rapid-transit system'. More prosaically, how valid is a highly speculative, extraterrestrial explanation for today's phenomenon of the UFO? One answer came from a panel of scientists commissioned by the French government in 1978. This group studied 11 UFO sightings in great detail and found that only 1 could be accounted for by conventional phenomena. The panel's originally secret report concluded that something real lay behind the other sightings—a 'flying machine . . . whose modes of sustenance and propulsion are beyond our knowledge'.

Quite a different answer came from an American panel of scientists that tested the extraterrestrial hypothesis in the late 1960s. The study, which was commissioned by the US Air Force under a \$US500 000 contract, was plagued by controversy almost from the beginning. Its chairman, physicist Dr Edward Condon, was quoted a few months after a study began as saying, 'My attitude right now is that there's nothing to it . . . but I'm not supposed to reach a conclusion for another year.' Then Condon fired two psychologists who were generally regarded as pro-UFO for allegedly leaking a memo which had strongly implied that the study's conclusions were conceived before the committee ever convened.

A 'cosmic Watergate'

In any case, the Condon committee's final report, which was published in 1969, reached the following conclusion: 'No direct evidence whatever of a convincing nature now exists for the claim that any UFOs represent spacecraft visiting earth from another civilization.' Shortly thereafter, largely upon the recommendation of the Condon committee, the Air Force closed its Project Blue Book, ending a 21-year-long investigation of thousands of UFO sightings.

To many UFO researchers, the Condon committee's report was a 'cosmic Watergate' as ex-nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman puts it. They quibbled less with its negative findings than with its conclusion that 'further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified'. In fact, Hynek insists the committee tackled the wrong problem. Instead of testing the extraterrestrial hypothesis, it ought to have examined the question of whether or not UFOs are a real phenomenon. Nonetheless, Hynek believes the committee inadvertently proved the reality of UFOs: of the 100-odd sightings investigated in detail, nearly one-third eluded plausible explanation and hence remain truly 'unidentified' flying objects.

It is possible, of course, that UFOs are real but not extraterrestrial in origin. Interestingly, the creatures reported in close encounters of the third kind typically resemble human beings or some form of elf-like beings that might well have been generated by the human mind. They seem to breathe our air and adjust to our gravity with little difficulty, as if the earth, not a far-away planet, were their home. 'They may be visitors

from inner space, from a parallel reality, or from another dimension', Hynek has suggested.

This view of UFOs as visitors from inner space has intrigued the French researcher Jacques Vallée, a computer specialist with a background in astronomy. In *Passport to Magonia* and other books, Vallée has explored the parallels between close encounters and myths from practically every culture that tell of contact between humans and alien creatures such as elves, trolls, angels, demons and monsters. 'In antiquity', he says, 'they were visualized as "gods"; in our time, as

interplanetary travellers. . . It may be that there is inherent in our species, a sort of built-in defence mechanism that reveals itself only in times of extreme social stress, and that one of its manifestations is the phenomenon known as UFOs.'

Vallée even postulates what he calls a 'control system', which subtly manipulates human consciousness through UFOs. But the nature of such a control system, Vallée concedes, remains totally in the realm of the unknown. Such mysteries, of course, are no less elusive than the UFO phenomenon itself.

END

UNITED STATES

North Bay residents report sighting UFO

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — More than a dozen people said they saw a mysterious UFO racing across the pre-dawn sky north of San Francisco on Thursday — a strange, X-shaped craft with blinking lights that hovered above the hills of Sonoma County before speeding away.

A California Highway Patrol officer who declined to be named and radio station KTOB News Director Ariette Cohen were among those who reported spotting the strange craft at about 4:30 a.m. between the cities of Petaluma and Sonoma about 40 miles north of here.

The sighting came on the heels of reports of pingpong-ball-sized, multi-colored UFOs crowding radar screens in São Paulo, Brazil. The government scrambled jet fighters to intercept the tiny objects, and two pilots said they saw the objects flying nearby.

"I saw these two white lights to the east," Cohen said, estimating the craft was about 1,000 feet in the air. She said she noticed the UFO when it crossed to the west side of the highway.

Cohen said she was driving to work at her Petaluma station, northbound on U.S. 101, and made the sighting shortly before reaching Petaluma.

"I think I saw sort of a black 'X' silhouette shape," Cohen said. "It was really hard to tell."

"An unidentified object described as a large orange 'X' with white lights in the front was seen traveling at a high rate of speed eastbound from Petaluma," Santa Rosa CHP Officer Bill McChristian said of the report from the unidentified officer and several callers.

Bay-area air traffic controllers said they could not explain the sighting, saying radar screens detected no such object flying over the area at that time.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado said no man-made spacecraft would have been visible at 4:30 a.m. in Northern California, but that debris from the *Comsat 1683* satellite reportedly re-entered the atmosphere over California more than an hour later, at 5:41.

23 May 1986
The Sacramento Bee
CALIF U.S.A.

END

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Steve Partridge - MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CARDS, ETC.

Due to ever increasing costs we have found it necessary to discontinue the issuing of Membership Cards. Also, in line with common business practice, a receipt will not be issued where payment is made by cheque or postal order.

In lieu of these actions we have introduced what we believe is a more informative & regular method of notifying you of your membership status. You may have noticed that we have introduced a computerised addressing method for the Bulletin. In the top left corner of the address label affixed to the front cover of all your recent & future Bulletins, is a coding. e.g.

12/1987 V03

This indicates the last Bulletin for which you are financial. (i.e. entitled to receive) In this example - the December 1987 edition. The coding after the date is simply a postal area grouping & may be ignored.

Therefore in order to check your membership status you need only locate your most recent edition & check the address label.

Additionally, we will continue to mark the 'boxes' on the inside front cover of your second last & last Bulletins. Your second last will be ticked in the 'FIRST' notice box, & your last in the 'FINAL' box.

We would greatly appreciate your efforts in keeping a check on the renewal boxes & your address labels, in order to renew promptly when due.

MARKETING

VUFORS have several high quality, Australian made items that you may wish to purchase.

Windcheaters - Royal Blue with long sleeves & a VUFORS badge on the left chest in blue & yellow on white.

T-Shirts - White with the VUFORS emblem printed on the left chest in blue & yellow.

Cloth Badges - Circular, depicting the VUFORS emblem in blue & yellow on white.

Stickers - As per the Cloth Badges in appearance.

1986 Review - 1986 edition of "The Australian Annual Flying Saucer Review". Our best AAFSR ever - 36 information packed pages !

Back Issues - Back issues of both our "Flying Saucer Review" & our quarterly "Australian U.F.O. Bulletins" are available.

All items are attractively priced & their purchase benefits your Society. For more details, & to simplify ordering, a comprehensive Order Form has been included in this edition. If it has been removed, simply write to the Society & one will be forwarded.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the society of any change in your postal address. This will ensure you receive your Bulletins without interruption.